

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 675

By Brooks K

A RESOLUTION to commemorate World Autism Awareness Day
in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting more than three million people, and it requires a local and national response; and

WHEREAS, autism is the result of a neurological disorder affecting brain function, which impacts how individuals perceive and interact with the world, and can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or economic means; and

WHEREAS, autism is a developmental disability resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and

WHEREAS, awareness of autism is crucial to ensure that persons living with autism have access to lifelong care and services needed to pursue the full measure of personal happiness and to achieve their maximum potential; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that one in every sixty-eight children is affected by autism; and

WHEREAS, early identification of autism is critical for successful outcomes of interventions, education, and therapies; and

WHEREAS, the number of adults living with autism is expected to increase dramatically over the next few years as adolescents age into adulthood, and Tennesseans recognize that autism is a significant and growing public health issue and desire to raise awareness of the disorder and resources available to citizens; and

WHEREAS, all individuals deserve the opportunity to fulfill their potential and lead rewarding and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, World Autism Awareness Day celebrates the unique talents and skills of persons with autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, April 2, 2016, is the ninth annual World Autism Awareness Day adopted to shine a bright light on autism as a growing health priority; World Autism Awareness Day coincides with the international Light It Up Blue Campaign, when the Tennessee State Capitol and thousands of iconic landmarks, skyscrapers, schools, businesses, and homes across the globe will unite by shining bright blue lights in honor of the millions of individuals and families affected by autism and individuals everywhere will wear blue in honor of the autism community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with Autism Speaks and citizens from around the globe as they commemorate April 2, 2016, as World Autism Awareness Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.